



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0152



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2007
9:00 AM
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Tim Beals, Chair-elect, Steve Leach, Ron Jones, Jim McKenney, Oden Cassidy, Richard Doughty, Paul Knowlton, Bill Montejo, Joe Conley, Steve Diaz (ex officio)

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dawn Kinney, Alan Leo, Drexell White, Ben Woodard

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie, Donnie Carroll

Guests: Wayne Werts, Kelly Roderick, Dan Batsie, Jonnathan Busko, Mike Carroll, Steve Bennett

Assistant Attorney General: Laura Yustak Smith, Esq.

1. Introductions – Those present introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.
2. Approval of the September 5, 2007, Board meeting minutes.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the September 5, 2007, as distributed. (Jones; second by Knowlton).
Unanimous

3. Public Comments & announcements – none

Note: the agenda order was rearranged to accommodate a variety of scheduling considerations.

4. New Business

1. Operations Team – Steve Corbin reported on the items discussed at the previous day's meeting, which included: changes to the course approval criteria, anticipate FY09 budget, and updates on standing and ad hoc committee activity.
2. Committee Reports and Annual Goals
 - i. Education Committee (Dan Batsie) – Dan reviewed the Education Committee report that had been distributed to Board members. Their current priority projects include: completing the review of the educational impact of proposed protocol changes with a goal of having a protocol training program developed by January 2008, and accreditation for

program approvals. The Committee will make its recommendation for their chairperson following their next meeting.

MOTION: To approve the Education Committee's goals for the coming year. (Leach; second by Pillsbury). Unanimous

- ii. Emergency Medical Dispatch (Drexell White) – Drexell reported that the EMD Committee has been working on the development of an RFP for a public safety dispatcher program that will include training curricula and EMD protocols. The Committee also recognizes the importance of developing a transition process to merge from the three currently approved programs to a single program/protocol. The Committee recommends the appointment of Stephanie Gibbs, Knox County RCC, to be its chairperson.

MOTION: To accept the EMD Committee's goals for the coming year and to support the appointment of Stephanie Gibbs to serve as its chair. (McKenney; second by Doughty). Unanimous

- iii. Emergency Medical Services for Children (Kelly Roderick) – Kelly reported that the EMSC Committee has been frustrated and hampered by the inconsistent availability of MEMS Staff to attend their most recent meeting. In the past year, the regional EMSC activities have included: playground safety, EMS for children with special health care needs, an EMS Expo, and continuing education programs on caring for pediatric patients. Jay suggested that he and Kelly meet to review the federal EMSC grant requirements, which have become more stringent, and develop a plan that will satisfy those requirements.

MOTION: To accept the EMSC Report and direct staff to work with the Committee on its FY08 work plan. (Pillsbury; second by Leach). Unanimous.

- iv. Exam Committee (Drexell White) – The Exam Committee has been working on updating the Intermediate written exam and should complete that process in the next few months. Other projects for the coming year include updating the Exam Administrator's Manual and the Integrated Practical Exams. The Committee recommends expanding its membership to include two At Large positions and will make its recommendation for chair following their October meeting.

MOTION: To accept the Exam Committee's recommendations for the FY08 work plan and expanded membership. (Leach; second by Pillsbury). Unanimous

- v. Data Committee (Ben Woodard) – The Data Committee has been meeting by weekly conference calls to work on reviewing the data dictionary to first delete unnecessary elements, second to discuss additional elements, and then to validate the field. The Committee nominates Chris Connor (Bucksport Fire Dept) to serve as chair.

Discussion ensued about how hospital IT departments are being approached regarding the technology needed for MEMSRR. Ben will draft a fact sheet on requirements and send to Dr. Diaz for input and distribution assistance.

There was also discussion about the status of services switching to MEMSRR and developing a plan for 100% statewide compliance.

MOTION: To accept the Data Committee's report and recommendation for chair and to direct MEMS to draft an implementation plan with deadlines. The plan shall be presented in December and shall include both budget impact for services and support required by hospitals. (Leach; second by McKenney) Unanimous.

vi. Other

3. Investigations Committee –

MOTION: For the Investigation Committee members to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2007, meeting. (Doughty; second by Knowlton). Unanimous

MOTION: For the Board of EMS to ratify the September 13, 2007, minutes of the Investigations Committee (McKenney; second by Leach) Unanimous.

MOTION: For the Investigation Committee members to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2007, meeting. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty). Unanimous

MOTION: For the Board of EMS to ratify the September 20, 2007, minutes of the Investigations Committee (Leach; second by Montejo) Unanimous.

MEMS has seen a significant increase in unlicensed providers during 2007 and is working on a letter to be sent to service chiefs reminding them of the severity of these situations, including malpractice and the possibility of action being taken if services have billed Medicare/MaineCare for treatment that was performed by unlicensed providers.

The Committee is also working on developing an EMS Code of Ethics for providers.

MOTION: To accept the Investigations Committee's report and work plan. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty)

4. Waiver Request: Northeast Mobile Health Services – single service license.

Bill Montejo recused himself because he is an employee of NEMH.

The Board reviewed the request of NEMH to combine its bases into a single service license. Steve Bennett explained that this would benefit the company by increased flexibility with staffing, vehicle location, and data collection (since application license instead of multiple licenses).

The Board made the following findings:

- NEMH has taken reasonable steps to comply with the Rules and is currently licensed and in compliance.
- NEMH was not given inaccurate information by MEMS.
- If the waiver is not granted, NEMH may be harmed by virtue of increased fees and licensing requirements, including CLIA and CMS.
- Granting the waiver would not pose a health or safety risk to the public.
- Granting a waiver would not establish a precedent that would harm the Board because each waiver is considered based upon its own merits.

MOTION: To grant a waiver of Chapter 3 § 2.5 based upon the above findings with regional service and vehicle reimbursement based upon the primary location of operation. (Pillsbury; second by McKenney) Unanimous.

5. Staff Reports

1. Medical Director (Steve Diaz) – The MDPB has recently:
 - Drafted a position paper regarding the qualifications necessary to serve as a PIFT medical director
 - Working on issues surrounding mental health transfers. This has been an ongoing interest of both the QI Committee and the MDPB looking at run report data. MEMS recently contacted the Maine Hospital Assn who also has an committee of hospital administrators working on this complex issue.
 - Developed draft language for EMS in a “warm zone” and sent to MEMA for feedback.
 - Updated the language on helmet removal to be consistent with national guidelines.
 - Is finishing up the online training program for Online Medical Control. The PowerPoint slides have been completed by Dr. Jonnathan Busko and MEMS is working on getting the narrative recorded. Working with Maine ACEP, this program will be available online in the near future.
 - Sent a letter to hospital medical records departments regarding the CPAP project and the importance of having access to patient records for QI purposes.
 - Approved a flu vaccination program for EMS providers to administer the vaccine for force protection (front line fire, police, and EMS personnel only).
 - Board voting on MDPB priorities for the coming year (in order):
 - Update EMS protocols
 - Process for specialized protocol approval
 - Disaster plan development working with ME CDC and MEMA
 - Working with Maine ACEP on medical control training
 - Process of reevaluating programs and protocols
 - Administration of blood products in PIFT
 - HART – 12 lead EKG training
 - Flu vaccine program.
2. QI (Steve Diaz) – Working on mental health transfers as reported above. Sending a letter to ED medical directors about the importance of sharing complete medical records with EMS providers on transfers.
3. MEMS (Jay Bradshaw)
 - i. Staff changes – still working on filling the EMS training/education coordinator position.
 - ii. IPE evaluator policy – distributed copies of an updated policy addressing conflict of interest potential with IPE evaluators.

MOTION: To approve IPE Evaluator Policy. (Doughty; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

6. Other

1. Dawn raised a question regarding clarification of the NEMH waiver with regard to QA, medical control, and the impact of changes in assessments to the regions involved. Considerable discussion ensued.

MOTION: To reconsider the Northeast Mobile Health waiver. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty) Carried 4/3.

Bill Montejo recused himself from the discussion.

Concern was expressed that there were issues related to the waiver that were not initially presented or considered and that input from SMEMS and MCEMS was essential to this issue.

MOTION: To table the Northeast Mobile Health waiver request until the November meeting and to obtain input from the regional offices on QA, medical control, assessment, and other areas of interest/concern. (Pillsbury; second by McKenney) Unanimous

2. Mike Carroll (So Portland Fire Dept) expressed his concern with the length of time it is taking to get the consent agreement resolved regarding unlicensed practice by Joshua Pobrislo. Mr. Carroll said that Chief Guimond would be calling Commissioner Jordan.
3. Jay reminded Board members that the annual Samoset Conference Town Meeting will take place on Friday, November 9, @ 6:30 PM.

7. Adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for November 7, 2007 @ 9:00 AM.